(b) if so, what are the reasons for the delay in takeoffs and landing during winter season; and

(c) the number of Air India flights cancelled or diverted out of Delhi during December-January, 2003 and the additional costs incurred by Air India as a result thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL) :(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Only those aircraft certified for Category IIIA operations and flown by flight crew qualified for Category IIIA operations can utilize the facility. Category IIIA operations can take place when the measured visibility is 200 meters and above.

(c) 13 flights were diverted out of Indira Gandhi International Air port and 5 were cancelled during December, 2003 and January, 2004. As a result, Air India incurred Rs. 1.90 crores as additional costs.

Revival of Rupsee Aerodrome in Assam

701. SHRI URKHAO GWRA BRAHMA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have any plan to revive the Rupsee Aerodrome of Assam;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL) :(a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Rupsee Airport in Assam belongs to Airports Authority of India (AAI) and is a non-operational airport. As there is no demand for flight operation to/from Rupsee Airport, it is not viable to operationalise this airport.

Overstaffing in Indian Airlines

702. SHRI SHAHID SIDDIQUI: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a proposal to buy new Aircrafts for Indian Airlines and Air India;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is a fact that the number of ground staff for aircrafts in Indian Airlines is much higher than that of private Airlines ;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(e) whether Government have any proposal to reduce the strength of staff in the Government-managed airlines?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL) :(a) and (b)Yes, Sir. Project Reports for acquisition of aircraft by Air India and Indian Airlines are under consideration of Government.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. In some categories, there is surplus staff.

(e) Government is discussing with the Government managed airlines how to rationalise the staff strength.

New International Airport in Navi Mumbai

703. SHRI EKANATH K. THAKUR: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether a project proposal for development of an International Airport at Navi Mumbai through public-private participation was submitted by the State Government of Maharashtra;

(b) if so, when and what are the details thereof; and

(c) the steps since taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL) :(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) A techno Economic Feasibility Report prepared by City & Industrial Development Corporation of Maharashtra Limited (CIDCO) for an airport at Navi Mumbai was received from the Government of Maharashtra. CIDCO has been advised to carry out a simulation study of conflict-free operations between existing airport and the proposed airport and also to provide double and parallel runways at the proposed airport before the preparation of the Detailed Project Report.